The Cary Arboretum

of The New York Botanical Garden

A Newsletter published for Friends of the Arboretum
by the Public Affairs Department.

March-April, 1979

Box AB
Millbrook, N.Y. 12545

Volume V, Number 2

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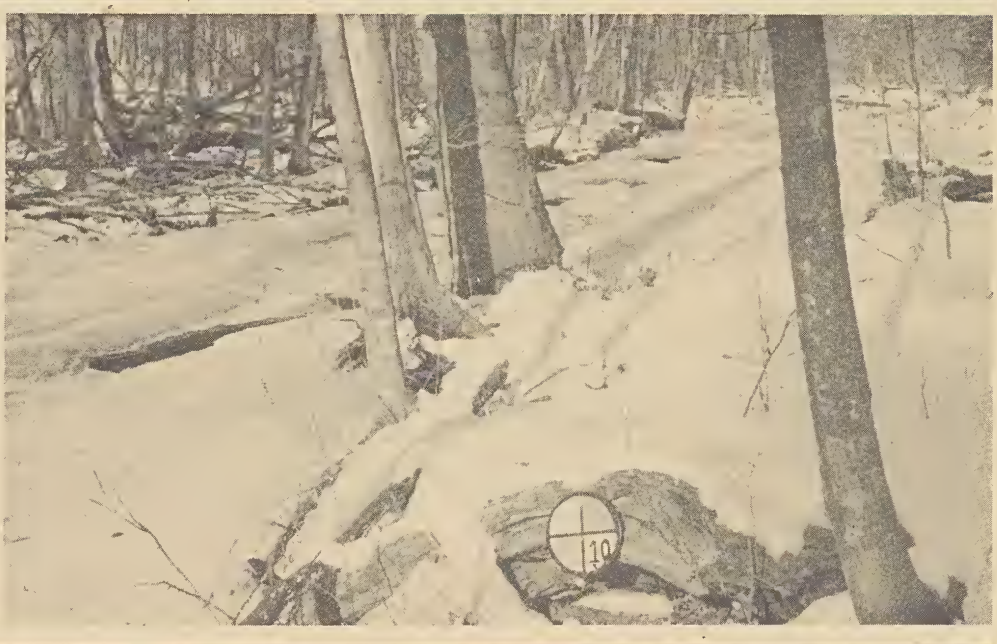
Trails for All Seasons

– 3 Arboretum Nature Trails

"Nature's classroom" is currently expanding at the Cary Arboretum with the development of three nature walks. Each of the nature trails offers something special to both the dedicated nature lover and the casual walker, and all are as unique as nature itself.

The Wappingers Creek Trail, which has recently been completed, was developed through the efforts of Eagle Scout candidate Bill Brenner and Keuka College freshman



A winter scene along the Wappinger's Creek trail looking north. Brightly colored trail markers are keyed to descriptions in a leaflet for visitors.

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Transportation of Liquid Coal

Ecologists are preparing for an eventual transition from the use of oil to coal by researching the concept of coal slurry transportation, according to Dr. Gus Tillman of the Arboretum staff.

As a member of the Man and Biosphere program (MAB) of UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization), Dr. Tillman recently attended a meeting in Houston, Texas, where he and other MAB ecologists discussed the subject.

Coal slurry is, in effect, a watery suspension of pulverized coal which, it is believed, could readily be pumped through existing oil pipelines. Research on the transportation of such slurry began about five years ago, and is currently being tested in the Black Mesa region of the southwestern United States.

As petroleum becomes less available, the United States may grow increasingly dependent on the use of coal, according to Dr. Tillman. UNESCO hopes that a change-over to coal could be accomplished with minimum construction of new facilities, which would minimize the environmental impact.

Dr. Tillman also recently completed a report for the Library of Congress on how Latin American governments are organized to deal with environmental problems.

The report, which was commissioned by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), will be consolidated with similar reports on the Middle East, Asia and Africa. The survey was initially requested by President Carter, and will be submitted to Congress for use in evaluating world environmental conditions.

SUMMER CONCERTS

The music committee announces five concerts in June and July: Three outdoors and two in the Plant Science Building. Details in our next issue.

"Spring Thing"

The Cary Arboretum will celebrate Spring on the weekend of April 14th at both the Greenhouse and Gifford House with the second annual "Spring Thing."

Saturday, April 14th at the Greenhouses on Route 82 there will be a day of repotting, spraying, and free plant care consultations between 10 AM and noon for Friends of the Cary Arboretum and between 1 PM and 3:30 PM for the general public. During these times, Cary members are invited to bring 3 plants for spraying and repotting (up to a 12" pot or 1 large tub) free of charge. Non-members will be charged $1.00 for each repotted plant (up to a 12" pot) and a small fee for the spraying of diseased plants.

The Gifford House Education and Visitor Center on the Sharon Turnpike will also welcome Spring with a plant and shop sale on Saturday, April 14 between 10 AM and 5 PM, and on Sunday, April 15 between 1 and 5 PM. Plants, gardening supplies, books, posters, and dozens of unusual items will be on sale just in time for Easter. A 10% discount on all purchases will be given to "Friends of the Arboretum." For more information, please call 677-5358.

Trails for All Seasons – 3 Arboretum Nature Walks

(continued from page 1)

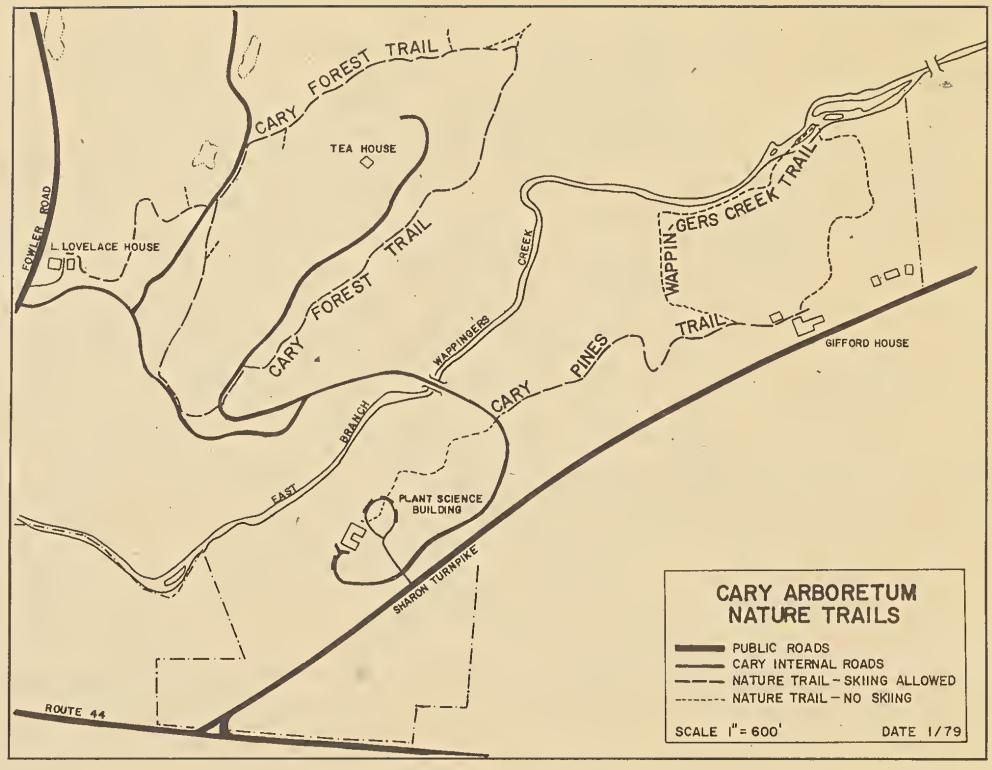
Chris Glinka under the supervision of Dr. Peter Dykeman of the Cary Arboretum staff. Two other trails, which are now in the last stages of the development process, will be completed this spring.

The Wappingers Creek Trail is a "path for all seasons." It traverses a variety of land and vegetation types, and even provides some memorabilia of the Gifford family, who formerly owned the land. At the beginning of this trail, behind the Gifford House Education and Visitor Center, is an area that once was used for active farming. Here, an abandoned corn harvester, cultivator, hayrake, disk cultivator, and seed drill have now become part of the landscape, blending their old, stark, rusted metal skeletons with embellishments of honeysuckle, wild cherry and locust.

The trail soon wends its meandering way through upland meadows which are filled, during the summer, with goldenrod, bergamot, and wild marjoram. Behind a moss-covered springhouse, the sharp aroma of spearmint fills the air and delights one's senses. It is here that the land becomes a classic demonstration of "old field" succession and as a result, this area of the trail is now being scientifically managed by Arboretum experts. They are studying the land by dividing this area into parcels separated by five-year time spans, in order to illustrate the progression of a formerly cultivated field into a natural forest. It is on this stretch of trail that the alert walker can also admire a huge white oak tree, estimated to be between 250 and 300 years old. It was near this venerable tree that one of the trail's "blazers," Scout Brenner, was faced with a most difficult obstacle of clearing the trail: dense blackberry, wild rose, and raspberry bushes, which created a thorny, almost impenetrable barrier that required much caution and careful planning. These thorny shrubs and trees provide food and cover for countless birds and wild creatures, and Scout Brenner had to reach a happy medium between the needs of the birds and the comfort of the hikers.

The visitor soon finds himself approaching a swamplike area, clearly marked by purple loosestrife, a four-foot-high plant introduced into this country from abroad. The vivid, tall and graceful spires dominate the moist area. Note, however, that cattails, which are typical swamp indicators, are absent here, due to the lack of standing water during the summertime.

The trail continues through a savannah-like meadow lush with little bluestem grass and juniper trees, laden with greenish-grey berries. After freezing in the winter, the berries are sweet and nearly palatable, although one should eat only one or two to avoid ingesting the toxic resins and terpinoids. These small trees have been mis-shaped by browsing deer, which shows how deer turn to this species in the late winter, when starvation threatens. The trail then continues toward the stream where one can taste-test the wintergreen bark of the silver birch *(Betula lenta)*. Although formerly used in medicine and tonics, including root beer, this bark is also mildly toxic to humans if eaten in quantity. This area is rich in hornbeams *(Carpinus caroliniana)* as well as sycamore trees *(Plantanus occidentalis)* which can best be identified by their mottled, patchy bark. A portion of this trail along the flood plain is an old bridle path used in the early 1900's by the Gifford family.



Map by Karen E. Asherman

During any season, the stream ecology of the Wappingers Creek is a fascinating feature of the trail. Trout, crayfish, and many species of amphibian, reptile, and insect life abound in the water. Mallards and other ducks often probe for vegetation, and herons stalk frogs in the shallows. By studying an island in the stream, one can see how the fast-flowing water meanders, builds up debris, and enlarges its channels through the banks on either side. Examples of unique plant life in the creek include scouring rush, water-cress, and various species of fungi. The woodland wet area is rich with ferns, musclewood trees, and many wildflowers.

Hemlocks also favor the cool dampness of the stream bank, and a red cedar bridge soon leads the walker into a hemlock ravine, the "deep, dark woods" – so named by the children and volunteers who participated in the "Plant Paint Off" in May, 1976.

If lichens are to your liking, you'll find masses of them covering the rocks and fallen logs on which they grow so luxuriantly. Many delicate mosses and colorful mushrooms thrive here, too, though one must always keep in mind that the latter may be poisonous. A particularly interesting little botanical rarity to look for at this point is the beech drop, a parasitic flowering plant which grows from the tree roots of the beech trees in this area.

In this dark, cool, humid stretch of the trail, the abundant beech and hemlock trees also provide welcome resting and feeding places for many species of birds, and the alert walker can easily spot blue jays, nuthatches, chickadees, and woodpeckers, to name just a few that abound here.

The man-made pine "forest" you now pass through is filled with white and Scots pine trees, planted many years ago. The tiny, branching, umbrella-like plants covering the ground like a huge, soft green carpet are ground cedars – members of the fern family, and protected by State law, as well as by the general prohibition against disturbing or picking plants on the Arboretum grounds.

Beyond the pine forest lies an area now referred to as the "Orchestra Bowl," where the Hudson Valley Philharmonic gives a series of concerts during the early summer months. Music lovers, listening to works of such composers as Bach, Schubert, Beethoven and Ravel, can simultaneously savor the beauties of such wildflowers as the elusive lady slipper, asters, daisies and Queen Anne's Lace.

Two additional trails, the Cary Pines and Cary Forest Trail, will be completed soon.

The Cary Forest Trail, up until now, was maintained as an easy access to the pump house which supplies water to the Cary teahouse and irrigates the Arboretum's research fields. This, like the Wappingers Creek Trail, serves as an educational tool for the study of trees and plants. The 3-mile walk features mature stands of oak, beech, hemlock, American chestnut, striped maple, and pine trees. This forested land is the Arboretum's prime area for ecological research and the long-range ecological monitoring of soil chemistry, microclimate, and plant succession.

The Cary Pines Trail, a path of about 2/3-mile between the Gifford House and the Plant Science Building, begins with a Scots Pine Allee to upland meadows. Seasonal features include the handsomely wintered sycamore, birches, spruces and pines; spring blossoms of shadblow, cherries, and wild blackberries; and, of course, the summer meadow's colorful wildflowers. The trail leads to the Fern Glen, which contains the basis for an outstanding fern collection.

All three of the trails described here provide enjoyment and environmental information for the layman as well as the Arboretum's research staff. The future of these trails depends upon the care and respect visitors have for the land and its plants.

Hikers wishing to use the trails are requested to register in advance at the Gifford House Education and Visitor Center on Sharon Turnpike (telephone: 677-5358). Members may also use the trails for cross-country skiing.

Text and photo by Robin Parow

From Botany to Basketry

A wide variety of courses covering a range of interests from science to environmental art is open for registration at the Cary Arboretum's Gifford House Education and Visitor Center on the Sharon Turnpike.

During the month of March, the following courses will be offered: Fiber Basketry, Botany in Mid-Hudson Valley Restaurants, Rock Gardening, and Bird Identification and Habits. March is also the month for the Arboretum's well-known "Maple Sugaring Weekend." Come to the back yard of the Gifford House March 17 or 18 and see a demonstration of maple sugaring which includes all the steps from collecting sap to sampling "Jack-Wax."

April offerings include courses in Off-Loom Weaving, Planning and Planting a Garden of Roses, Macrame for Beginners, Outdoor Sketching and Watercolor, Intermediate Ikebana, Voices of the Night, and Techniques of Painting in Acrylics.

A class in Spring Wildflowers heads the list of courses offered during May. Other classes are: Tree and Shrub Care for the Home Gardener, Intermediate Macrame, Living Off the Land: Wild Foods, Herb Gardening, Dried Winter Bouquet Materials, and Painting Outdoor Lanscapes in Acrylics.

All courses have limited enrollment. To ensure your place in a class, please register in advance by calling 677-5358.

Death of Frank Stubbs

Mr. Frank Stubbs, one of the four Trustees of the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, which established the Arboretum and is its principal funding source, passed away at his home in Kennett Square, Pa., on January 18th. He was 84 years old.

A native of Mississippi and a graduate of Yale University, Mr. Stubbs worked, as a young man, for both the Rockefeller Foundation and the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial. He then devoted 28 years of his business career to the American Radiator Company.

Mr. Stubbs, who was an intimate friend of Mr. and Mrs. Cary, had been a Cary Trustee since the Trust was established in 1968. He is survived by his widow, a sister, a sister-in-law, a nephew, one grandnephew and four grandnieces.

Mr. Stubbs had a deep and abiding interest in conservation of natural resources and was a frequent visitor to the Arboretum. The staff here will greatly miss his friendly concern for the wise management and use of the land that now is the Cary Arboretum.

Peekskill Tree Survey

The Cary Arboretum recently completed for the City of Peekskill a comprehensive survey of its tree population.

The 214-page report, financed by federal Community Development funds, was more than three years in the making. It was compiled and written by Research Assistant David Whittaker and Dr. Thomas Elias.

The completed study, described as "A

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Urban Forestry Workshop

The Cary Arboretum recently hosted a highly successful Urban Forestry Workshop for 20 official New York State foresters from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

The five-day training session was designed to familiarize the state foresters with problems of trees in an urban environment. It included lectures on various aspects of Urban Forestry, such as: street cultivars, maintenance of urban trees, and landscape architecture. Among the guest speakers were Paul Manion of Syracuse University's College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and Leonard Merin, of the Cornell University Architecture program.

The week-long series of meetings, held in January, was under the overall direction of Dr. Thomas Elias.

People at the Arboretum

Janice Claiborne. . . As a Friend of the Arboretum, you have probably spoken to her on the phone. She not only is the membership secretary of the group, but she also serves as the Assistant to Dr. Payne, the Director of the Arboretum.

Due to her father's government position, Janice grew up "all around the world." Her early years were spent in New York, California, Ohio, and Washington, D. C. After that, she lived in Karachi, Pakistan, for a year and she used this as a base from which to visit many other Far and Middle Eastern cities such as Lahore, New Delhi, Agra, Bombay, Singapore, Hong Kong, Saigon, Djakarta, Beirut and Damascus.

As a graduate of Bucknell University, Janice was awarded a prestigious exchange fellowship to study French literature and culture at the University of Caen in Normandy, France. Upon her return to the U.S. she worked for Booz, Allen, and Hamilton, a management consulting firm in New York City, and then as an administrative secretary for the International and Protocol Divisions of the 1964-65 World's Fair. Her fond memories of the World's Fair include the excitement and chaos of preparing for Opening Day, and later, lunchtime walks through the Fair's International Pavilions.

Janice moved to nearby Union Vale in 1966. In 1973, after reading about the Cary Arboretum in the "Millbrook Round Table," she attended the official Greenhouse opening, was enthused about the Arboretum's concepts, and promptly applied for a position. She says her work is both challenging and gratifying, adding that her involvement with the Friends of the Arboretum program "makes me feel as though its members are friends of mine. . . although I've never met most of them, I know their names." With Janice in charge, the approximately 650 "Friends" can be sure that their letters and phone calls will be answered promptly and efficiently.

Janice is the mother of three children: George, age 14, Jennifer, age 12, and Andrew, age 10, who are all enrolled in the Millbrook Central School District. On a priority scale, Janice notes that domestic chores are "at the bottom of the list." She enjoys playing bridge, bowling, volleyball and "who-done-it" novels. In addition to her other duties at the Arboretum, she is an "in-house" public official, having recently received a Notary Public license.

Around the Arboretum

Free Parking at NYBG Spring Plant Show

Members of the Friends of the Cary Arboretum are entitled to free parking at the New York Botanical Garden during the months of March and April to attend the Garden's Spring Plant Show. Parking normally costs $2.00.

The display at the plant show will feature 100,000 flowers. It opens on March 10th in the brilliantly restored "Crystal Palace," the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, which houses eleven connecting glass galleries covering one acre.

The Spring show is the major floral event in New York, and features such seasonal plants as anemones, primroses and flowering bulbs, in addition to a profusion of orchids in unusual varieties.

Arboretum Friends wishing to make use of the free parking privilege should show their membership card to the guard at the Botanical Garden gate. The Conservatory is open Tuesdays through Sundays, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission is $1.50 for adults, 75 cents for children and senior citizens.

AABGA Conference Held in Sturbridge

Horticulturist Robert Hebb, the newly-appointed "convenor" for the Northeastern section of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta, recently escorted several staff members to Sturbridge, Massachusetts, for a conference on "Cultivars in the Off-Season."

The February meeting was attended by 70 AABGA members from the Northeastern states. Discussions and lectures during the two-day conference focused on such winter horticulture projects as public displays, outdoor winter collections, and volunteer programs.

In addition to Mr. Hebb, the Cary Arboretum was represented by Dr. and Mrs. Willard W. Payne; Horticulturist Carol Young; Director of Education Peter Dykeman; and Alex Pearl and Paul Mihan of the Greenhouse staff. Three NYBG Horticulture Students now studying at the Arboretum as part of their two-year course also attended the meetings: Bonnie Billet, Karen Asherman and Debbie Klugman.

Plant Science Building Featured by AP

The nationally distributed Associated Press Newsfeature Service, which goes to more than 1200 newspapers that are members of the nation's leading wire news service, carried a major article in January about the environmental features of the Plant Science Building. Public Affairs Director George Bookman has been receiving clippings of the story from dozens of newspapers in every section of the United States. Author of the article is Earl Aronson, a resident of Hudson, N.Y., who writes a weekly gardening column for A.P. called "Weeder's Guide."

Natural Heritage Trust Grant Awarded

The Cary Arboretum has been awarded a grant of $9,000 from the Natural Heritage Trust, an agency of New York State. The funds will be used for completion of nature trails on the Arboretum grounds, open for use by Friends of the Arboretum and public visitors.

Natural Heritage Trust is a State fund administered jointly by the Department of Environmental Conservation, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the State Parks Council. This is the second consecutive year that the Arboretum has received a grant toward expenses from the Trust, which is authorized to assist zoological parks, botanical gardens, arboreta, and aquariums to create and expand their recreation and cultural programs and services.

Vietnamese Artist to Exhibit Through April 1

Impressionist paintings by Triminh, a Vietnamese Artist, will remain on exhibit through April 1 at the Cary Arboretum's Gifford House Education and Visitor Center and The Plant Science Building on the Sharon Turnpike.

A native of South Vietnam, Triminh has exhibited in Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, San Francisco, Paris, Saigon, Tokyo, India, and Brazil. After moving to Poughkeepsie in 1975, Triminh began teaching art to adults who "wanted to perfect their style." On Saturday, April 28, he will conduct a day-long seminar on techniques of painting in acrylics at the Gifford House.

Triminh's paintings reflect a calm, impressionist-style of land and seascapes demonstrating a range of color, texture and technique.

Gallery hours at the Gifford House are 8:30 to 4:30 daily, and between 1:30 and 4:30 on weekends. Admission is free.

Library Hours Extended

Linda Vigars, Cary Arboretum Librarian, has announced that as of March first, the Arboretum Library will be open to the public each Wednesday night until 7:30 PM. Regular hours are 9 AM to 4 PM on weekdays. Anyone wishing to use the library facilities during unscheduled hours should call Ms. Vigars at 677-5343 for special library privileges.

The Arboretum's library is located in the solar-heated Plant Science Building on the Sharon Turnpike. Visitors should enter the building through the main (north) door, following the corridor straight ahead to the elevator halfway down the hall. The library is on the lower floor.

Peekskill Tree Survey

(continued from page 3)

Master Plan for the Planning, Planting, and Maintenance of Trees on Public Property," outlines a prospectus for establishing and maintaining a comprehensive urban tree program. It was based on a random survey of the trees already on the streets of Peekskill. Data collected during this inventory included tree identification, size, condition, utility interference, and other environmentally related rproblems.

Copies are available for sale from the Arboretum's Business Office at $12 each.

THE CARY ARBORETUM
of
THE NEW YORK
BOTANICAL GARDEN

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